## Remarks

In response to the Final Office Action mailed January 4, 2008, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration. To further the prosecution of this application, amendments have been made in the claims. The amendment presented herein are believed to place the claims in condition for allowance, and should be entered.

Claims 1-23 were previously pending in this application. Claims 1-5, 8-11, 13, 15-19, and 21-22 are amended herein. Claims 26 and 27 have been added. As a result, claims 1-11, 13-23, and 26-27 are pending for examination, with claims 1, 15, 26 being independent. No new matter has been added.

## Summary of Telephone Interview

Applicant's representative Edmund Walsh thanks Examiner Herbst for her courtesy in granting and conducting the telephone interview held on April 9, 2008. The interview was also attended by Ling Cheung, a technology specialist. During the interview, Applicant's representative and the Examiner discussed proposed claim amendments sent to the Examiner, as well as issues raised in the Office Action mailed on January 4, 2008. The claim amendments and remarks presented herein may serve as a further summary of the telephone interview.

## Rejection of Claim 1

Claim 1 is rejected under U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ezekiel in view of Rine and further in view of Micaelides. Claim 1 has been amended to further distinguish over the references. As amended, Claim 1 is supported in the application as filed, e.g., in [0005, 0035, 0037]. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection against claim 1 be withdrawn for at least the reasons discussed below.

The present application discloses a user interface framework that allows a user to interact with one or more computer applications or hosting environments [0028,0034]. Further, the framework is configured to load "various interface plug-ins to customize the user interface according to the specific requirements of the user" [0029]. These plug-ins provide interface elements such as menu items, toolbar buttons, and status bar panels [0029]. In order for a computer

application A to utilize interface elements provided by a plug-in P, an adapter may be used to map the interface elements of P to functions of A [0035]. For example, if P provides a toolbar button B and the user clicks on B, the adapter signals to the application A that a particular function F should be performed. In essence, the adapter provides a semantics for interface elements of P when P is used in the context of A.

In the Office Action, add-on DLLs of Ezekiel were interpreted as user interface plug-ins of the present application. Applicant respectfully disagrees with that interpretation. Ezekiel describes a system that "includes an operating system 250 and an application program 260, and can further include one or more add-on software components (DLLs) 271, 272 designed to <u>operate in conjunction</u> with application program 260" [Ezekiel: Figure 2; column 5, lines 23-27] (emphasis added). Each add-on component comprises one or more modules and module commands [Ezekiel: Figure 3; column 6, lines 19-22]. The modules of an add-on component provide different aspects of the functionality of the add-on, just as the modules of the main program 260 provide different aspects of the functionality of 260 [Ezekiel: column 5, lines 42-45; column 6, lines 15-18]. Ezekiel does not teach or suggest that the main program 260 utilizes interface elements provided by add-on components 271 and 270.

Furthermore, Ezekiel teaches the use of a command table that indicates whether a command "is bound to a menu, tool bar, accelerator key, or other user interface mechanism" [Ezekiel: column 6, lines 39-41]. Thus, it is readily appreciated that, in Figure 3 of Ezekiel, if a user selects an interface element (such as an accelerator key) bound to the command 332 of the add-on component 271, this act causes the module 331 of the add-on component 271 to perform a function. Ezekiel does <u>not</u> give any indication or suggestion that such an act causes any of the modules 310 and 320 of the main program 260 to perform a function. Therefore, there is no reason to include an adapter between 260 and 271 such that the adpater "maps interface elements of the first plug-in [...] to functions of the one or more computer applications," where "the first plug-in" is read as "add-on 271" and "the one or more computer applications" is read as "main program 260." Thus, there is no reason to modify Ezekiel based on Rine or Michaelides. Moreover, even if modified, the system as modified would not meet all limitations of claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection against claim 1 be withdrawn. Claims 2-11 and 13-14 depend upon claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reasons.

## Rejection of Claim 15

Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ezekiel in view of Rine and Shank and further in view of Michaelides. Claim 15 has been amended and the language is supported in the application as filed, e.g., in [0005, 0035, 0037]. For reasons that should be apparent from the foregoing remarks regarding claim 1, the cited references do not teach or suggest all limitations of claim 15. For example, the references, whether considered alone or in combination, do not teach limitations such as "providing a framework...comprising a user interface component loader," or "providing an interface...wherein the shell adapter maps interface elements of the plug-in to functions of the one or more applications." Claims 16-23 depend upon claim 15 and are allowable for at least the same reasons.

## New Claims 26 and 27

Claims 26 and 27 are directed to a computer storage medium bearing instructions, which, when executed, carry out a method for generating a componentized user interface for one or more computer applications or hosting environments. Both claims are supported in the application as filed, e.g., in [0005, 0034, 0035, 0036, Figure 4].
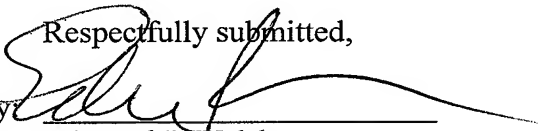
Claim 26 distinguishes over the Ezekiel reference for at least the reason that Ezekiel does not teach "providing a first interface between the plug-in and a first computer application or hosting environment, wherein the first interface maps interface elements of the plug-in to functions of the first computer application or hosting environment" and "providing a second interface between the plug-in and a second computer application of hosting environment, wherein the second interface maps interface elements of the plug-in to functions of the second computer application or hosting environment." Claim 27 depends upon Claim 26 and is allowable at least on the basis of dependency.

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## CONCLUSION

A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if this communication does not place the case in condition for allowance.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

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Respectfully submitted,

By

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